

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

## A

**Adit:** See Mine Adit.

**Adjacent** is defined by ASTM E1527-00 as any real property the border of which is contiguous or partially contiguous with that of the Site or would be contiguous or partially contiguous with that of the Site but for a street, road, or other public throughfare separating them.

**Administrative Route:** Routes that lead to developments that have an administrative purpose, where the BLM or some permitted user must have access for regular maintenance or operation.

**Adverse visual impact:** any modification in land forms, water bodies, or vegetation, or any introduction of structures, which negatively interrupts the visual character of the landscape and disrupts the harmony of the basic elements (i.e., form, line, color, and texture).

**(A)esthetics:** relates to the pleasurable characteristics of a physical environment as perceived through the five senses of sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch.

**Allotment Management Plan (AMP):** A livestock grazing management plan dealing with a specific unit of rangeland and based on multiple use resource management objectives. The AMP considers livestock grazing in relation to other uses of rangelands and to renewable resources (e.g., watershed, vegetation and wildlife). An AMP establishes the seasons of use, number of livestock to be permitted on rangelands, and the range improvements needed.

**Animal Unit (AU):** One mature (1,000-pound) cow or the equivalent based upon an average daily forage consumption of 26 pounds of dry matter per day.

**Animal Unit Month (AUM):** The amount of forage needed to sustain one cow, five sheep, or five goats for a month.

**Archaeological Feature:** A non-portable object, not recoverable from its matrix (usually in an archeological site) without destroying its integrity. Examples are rock paintings, hearths, post holes, floors, and walls.

**Archaeological district: Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC):** A designated area on public lands where special management attention is required: (1) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to fish and wildlife; (2) to protect important historic, cultural, or scenic values, or other natural systems or processes; or (3) to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

## **B**

**Back-country Byway:** A component of the national scenic byway system which focuses primarily on corridors along back-country roads which have high scenic, historic, archeological, or other public interest values. The road may vary from a single-track bike trail to a low-speed, paved road that traverses back-country areas. (BLM Handbook H-8357-1, B 2)

**Basic Elements:** The four design elements (form, line, color, and texture), which determine how the character of a landscape is perceived.

## **C**

**Casual Use (Mining):** Mining that only negligibly disturbs federal lands and resources and does not include the use of mechanized earth moving equipment, explosives, or motorized equipment (greater than 25 horsepower). Casual use generally includes panning, non-motorized sluicing, and collecting mineral specimens using hand tools.

**Characteristic:** A distinguishing trait, feature, or quality.

**Characteristic Landscape:** The established landscape within an area being viewed. This does not necessarily mean a naturalistic character. It could refer to an agricultural setting, an urban landscape, a primarily natural environment, or a combination of these types.

**Computer Graphics:** Visual displays of information produced by an electronic computer. This includes both hard-copy and screen displays.

**Contrast:** Opposition or unlikeness of different forms, lines, colors, or textures in a landscape.

**Contrast Rating:** A method of analyzing the potential visual impacts of proposed management activities.

**Cretaceous:** In geologic history the third and final period of the Mesozoic era, from 144 million to 65 million years ago, during which extensive marine chalk beds formed.

**Cultural Modification:** Any man-caused change in the land form, water form, vegetation, or the addition of a structure which creates a visual contrast in the basic elements (form, line, color, texture) of the naturalistic character of a landscape.

**Cultural Resource:** A location of human activity, occupation, or use identifiable through field inventory, historical documentation, or oral evidence. Cultural resources include archaeological and historical sites, structures, buildings, objects, artifacts, works of art, architecture, and natural features that were important in past human events. They may consist of physical remains or areas where significant human events occurred, even though evidence of the events no longer remains. And they may include definite locations of traditional, cultural, or religious importance to specified social or cultural groups.

**Cultural Resource Data:** Cultural resource information embodied in material remains such as artifacts, features, organic materials, and other remnants of past activities. An important aspect of data is context, a concept that refers to the relationships among these types of materials and the situations in which they are found.

**Cultural Resource Data Recovery:** The professional application of scientific techniques of controlled observation, collection, excavation, and/or removal of physical remains, including analysis, interpretation, explanation, and preservation of recovered remains and associated records in an appropriate curatorial facility used as a means of protection. Data recovery may sometimes employ professional collection of such data as oral histories, genealogies, folklore, and related information to portray the social significance of the affected resources. Such data recovery is sometimes used as a measure to mitigate the adverse impacts of a ground-disturbing project or activity.

**Cultural Resource Integrity:** The condition of a cultural property, its capacity to yield scientific data, and its ability to convey its historical significance. Integrity may reflect the authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival or physical characteristics that existed during its historic or prehistoric period, or its expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.

**Cultural Resource Inventory (Survey):** A descriptive listing and documentation, including photographs and maps of cultural resources. Included in an inventory are the processes of locating, identifying, and recording sites, structures, buildings, objects, and districts through library and archival research, information from persons knowledgeable about cultural resources, and on-the-ground surveys of varying intensity.

Class I: A professionally prepared study that compiles, analyzes, and synthesizes all available data on an area's cultural resources. Information sources for this study include published and unpublished documents, BLM inventory records, institutional site files, and state and National Register files. Class I inventories may have prehistoric, historic, and ethnological and sociological elements. These inventories

are periodically updated to include new data from other studies and Class II and III inventories.

Class II: A professionally conducted, statistically based sample survey designed to describe the probable density, diversity, and distribution of cultural properties in a large area. This survey is achieved by projecting the results of an intensive survey carried out over limited parts of the target area. Within individual sample units, survey aims, methods, and intensities are the same as those applied in Class III inventories. To improve statistical reliability, Class II inventories may be conducted in several phases with different sample designs.

Class III: A professionally conducted intensive survey of an entire target area aimed at locating and recording all visible cultural properties. In a Class III survey, trained observers commonly conduct systematic inspections by walking a series of close-interval parallel transects until they have thoroughly examined an area.

**Cultural Resource Project Plan:** For cultural resource projects, a detailed design plan that defines the procedures, budget, and schedule for such activities as structure stabilization, recordation, interpretive development, and construction of facilities such as trails. These plans include estimates on workforce, equipment, and supply needs.

**Cultural Resource Values:** The irreplaceable qualities that are embodied in cultural resources, such as scientific information about prehistory and history, cultural significance to Native Americans and other groups, and the potential to enhance public education and enjoyment of the Nation's rich cultural heritage.

**Cultural Site:** A physical location of past human activities or events, more commonly referred to as an archaeological site or a historic property. Such sites vary greatly in size and range from the location of a single cultural resource object to a cluster of cultural resource structures with associated objects and features.

## **D**

***De minimis* condition:** An environmental condition that does not generally present a material risk of harm to the public health or the environment and that generally would not be subject to an enforcement action if brought to the attention of appropriate government agencies.

**Discretionary construction:** Any construction activity requiring a permit from BLM.

**Distance Zones:** A subdivision of the landscape as viewed from an observer position. The subdivision (zones) includes foreground-middleground, background, and seldom seen.

## E

**Enhancement:** A management action designed to improve visual quality.

**Ethnoecology:** The study of the relationship between a society and its natural environment, including the spatio-temporal organization of human activities and how nature and natural resources are used (i.e. hunting, fishing, collecting, farming, preparing food); the study of how people perceive and manipulate their environments.

**Excavation:** The scientific examination of an archaeological site through layer-by-layer removal and study of the contents within prescribed surface units, e.g. square meters.

## F

**Foreground-middleground Distance Zones:** The area visible from a travel route, use area, or other observation point to a distance of 3 to 5 miles. The outer boundary of this zone is defined as the point where the texture and form of individual plants are no longer apparent in the landscape. Vegetation is apparent only in patterns or outline.

**Form:** The mass or shape of an object or objects which appear unified, such as a vegetative opening in a forest, a cliff formation, or a water tank.

**Free Use Permit (FUP):** A permit that is generally issued to a governmental entity (e.g. state, county, or city) that allows the removal of mineral materials from the public lands free of charge.

## G

## H

**Historical Site:** A location that was used or occupied after the arrival of Europeans in North America (ca. A.D. 1492). Such sites may consist of physical remains at archaeological sites or areas where significant human events occurred, even though evidence of the events no longer remains. They may have been used by people of either European or Native American descent.

## I

**Igneous Rock:** Rock, such as granite and basalt, that has solidified from a molten or partially molten state.

**Indian Tribe:** Any American Indian group in the United States that the Secretary of the Interior recognizes as possessing tribal status (listed periodically in the Federal Register).

**Indigenous:** Being of native origin (such as indigenous peoples or indigenous cultural features).

**Interdisciplinary Team:** A group of individuals with different training, representing the physical sciences, social sciences, and environmental design arts, assembled to solve a problem or perform a task. The members of the team proceed to a solution with frequent interaction so that each discipline may provide insights to any stage of the problem and disciplines may combine to provide new solutions.

## **J**

## **K**

**Key Observation Point (KOP):** one or a series of points on a travel route or at a use area or a potential use area, where the view of a management activity would be most revealing.

## **L**

**Landscape Character:** The arrangement of a particular landscape as formed by the variety and intensity of the landscape features and the four basic elements of form, line, color, and texture. These factors give the area a distinctive quality which distinguishes it from its immediate surroundings.

**Landscape Features:** The land and water form, vegetation, and structures which compose the characteristic landscape.

**Leasable Minerals:** Minerals whose extraction from federally managed land requires a lease and the payment of royalties. Leasable minerals include coal, oil and gas, oil shale and tar sands potash, phosphate, sodium, and geothermal steam.

**Line:** The path, real or imagined, that the eye follows when perceiving abrupt differences in form, color, or texture. Within landscapes, lines may be found as ridges, skylines, structures, changes in vegetative types, or individual trees and branches.

**Locatable Minerals:** Minerals subject to exploration, development, and disposal by staking mining claims as authorized by the Mining Law of 1872, as amended. This includes deposits of gold, silver, and other uncommon minerals not subject to lease or sale.

## M

**Management Activity:** A surface disturbing activity undertaken on the landscape for the purpose of harvesting, traversing, transporting, protecting, changing, replenishing, or otherwise using resources.

**Mine Adit:** A horizontal opening of a mine.

**Mine Shaft:** A vertical opening of a mine.

**Mineral Material Disposal:** The sale of sand, gravel, decorative rock, or other materials defined in 43 CFR 3600.

**Mining Claim:** A mining claim is a selected parcel of Federal Land, valuable for a specific mineral deposit or deposits, for which a right of possession has been asserted under the General Mining Law. This right is restricted to the development and extraction of a mineral deposit. The rights granted by a mining claim protect against a challenge by the United States and other claimants only after the discovery of a valuable mineral deposit. The two types of mining claims are lode and placer. In addition, mill sites and tunnel sites may be located to provide support facilities for lode and placer mining.

**Mining Notice:** The notification a mining operator must submit to BLM of the intention to begin an operation that will disturb 5 acres or less a year within a mining claim or project area. The intent of a Notice is to permit operations with limited geographic disturbance to begin after a quick review for potential resource conflicts and to eliminate the need for federal action. A Notice requires no special forms, but an operator must submit specific information. BLM must complete its review of the Notice within 15 calendar days of its receipt unless more information is needed to determine if the operation would cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

**Mining Plan of Operations:** A plan for mineral exploration and development that a mining operator must submit to BLM for approval for all mining, milling, and bulk sampling of more than 1,000 tons or more and for exploration disturbing more than 5 acres or on special status lands, including wilderness, areas of critical environmental concern, national monuments, national conservation areas, and lands containing proposed or listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat. A plan of operations must document in detail all actions that the operator plans to take from exploration through reclamation.

**Mitigation:** Mitigation includes: (a) Avoiding the impacts altogether by not taking an action or parts of an action, (b) Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation, (c) Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment, (d) Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action, (e)

Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments (40 CFR 1508.20).

## **N**

**National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended:** A federal statute that established a federal program to further the efforts of private agencies and individuals in preserving the Nation's historic and cultural foundations. The National Historic Preservation Act: (1) authorized the National Register of Historic Places, (2) established the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and a National Trust Fund to administer grants for historic preservation, and (3) authorized the development of regulations to require federal agencies to consider the effects of federally assisted activities on properties included on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Also see National Register of Historic Places.

**National Scenic Trail:** One of the three categories of national trails defined in the National Trails System Act of 1968 that can only be established by act of Congress and are administered by federal agencies, although part or all of their land base may be owned and managed by others. National Scenic Trails are existing regional and local trails recognized by either the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior upon application.

**National Register District:** A group of significant archaeological, historical, or architectural sites, within a defined geographic area, that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. See National Register of Historic Places.

**National Register of Historic Places:** The official list, established by the National Historic Preservation Act, of the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. The National Register lists archeological, historic, and architectural properties (i.e. districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects) nominated for their local, state, or national significance by state and federal agencies and approved by the National Register Staff. The National Park Service maintains the National Register. Also see National Historic Preservation Act.

**National Register Eligible Properties:** Cultural resource properties that meet the National Register criteria and have been determined eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places because of their local, state, or national significance. Eligible properties generally are older than 50 years and have retained their integrity. They meet one or more of four criteria: (a) associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; (b) associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; (c) embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master; and (d) have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.



**Naturalistic Character:** A landscape setting where the basic elements are displayed in a composition that appears unaltered by man.

**Non-native Invasive Species:** See Invasive Species and Noxious Weed.

**Noxious Weed:** According to the Federal Noxious Weed Act (PL 93-629), a weed that causes disease or has other adverse effects on man or his environment and therefore is detrimental to the agricultural and commerce of the United States and to the public health.

**No Surface Occupancy (NSO):** A fluid mineral leasing stipulation that prohibits occupancy or disturbance on all or part of the lease surface to protect special values of uses. Lessees may explore for or exploit the fluid minerals under leases restricted by this stipulation by using directional drilling from sites outside the no surface occupancy area.

## O

**Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV):** Any vehicle capable of or designed for travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, deriving motive power from any source other than muscle. OHVs exclude: 1) any non-amphibious registered motorboat; 2), any fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for official or emergency purposes; 3) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by a permit, lease, license, agreement, or contract issued by an authorized officer or otherwise approved; 4) vehicles in official use; and 5) any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies.

## P

**Paleontological Resources (Fossils):** The physical remains of plants and animals preserved in soils and sedimentary rock formations. Paleontological resources are important for understanding past environments, environmental change, and the evolution of life.

**Paleontology:** A science dealing with the life forms of past geological periods as known from fossil remains.

**Paleozoic Era:** An era of geologic time (600 million to 280 million years ago) between the Late Precambrian and the Mesozoic eras and comprising the Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian, Missippian, Pennsylvanian, and Permian periods.

**Patayan:** A group of North American Indians who lived between perhaps AD 700 and AD 1550 in western Arizona, southeastern California, and Baja California largely along the lower Colorado River and lower Gila River valleys.

**Petroglyph:** Pictures, symbols, or other art work pecked, carved, or incised on natural rock surfaces.

**Physiographic Province:** An extensive portion of the landscape normally encompassing many hundreds of square miles, which portrays similar qualities of soil, rock, slope, and vegetation of the same geomorphic origin (Fenneman 1946; Sahrhaftig 1975).

**Pleistocene (Ice Age):** An epoch in the Quarternary period of geologic history lasting from 1.8 million to 10,000 years ago. The Pleistocene was an epoch of multiple glaciation, during which continental glaciers covered nearly one fifth of the earth's land.

**Prehistoric:** Refers to the period wherein American Indian cultural activities took place before written records and not yet influenced by contact with nonnative culture(s).

**Primitive Road:** A linear route used by four-wheel drive or high-clearance vehicles. Primitive Roads do not normally meet any BLM road design standards.

## **Q**

**Quarternary Period:** The current period of geologic history and second period of the Cenozoic era, which is believed to have covered the last 2 million to 3 million years.

## **R**

**Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS):** A planning inventory process that provides a framework for defining classes of outdoor recreation environments, activities, and experience opportunities. In ROS, the setting, activities, and opportunities for experiences are arranged along a spectrum of six classes: primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized, roaded natural, rural, and urban. The setting is measured by the number of people expected, producing different levels of solitude and the evidence of human use as shown by management activities and degree of development. The resulting ROS analysis defines specific geographic areas on the ground, each of which encompasses one of the six classes.

**Rehabilitation:** A management alternative and/or practice which restores landscapes to a desired scenic quality.

**Restoration (Cultural Resource):** The process of accurately reestablishing the form and details of a property or portion of a property together with its setting, as it appeared in a particular period of time. Restoration may involve removing later work that is not in itself significant and replacing missing original work. Also see Stabilization (Cultural Resource).

**Route:** Any motorized, non-motorized, or mechanized transportation corridor. Corridor may either be terrestrial or a waterway. "Roads," "trails," and/or "ways" are considered routes.

**RS 2477:** Revised Statute 2477 was enacted as part of the Mining Law of 1866, during a time when the federal government's focus was on encouraging settlement and development of the West. Congress passed R.S. 2477 to ensure miners' routes to their claims and cattlemen's trails for their herds by granting rights-of-way over any federal land not otherwise set aside. Although Congress repealed the statute in 1976 with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, it did not terminate rights-of-way in existence at that time. As part of the new law in 1976, Congress recognized all valid existing claims to these rights-of-way as of that date.

## S

**Saleable Minerals:** Common variety minerals on the public lands, such as sand and gravel, which are used mainly for construction and are disposed by sales or special permits to local governments. See also Mineral Materials.

**Scale:** The proportionate size relationship between an object and the surroundings in which the object is placed.

**Scenery:** The aggregate of features that give character to a landscape.

**Scenic Area:** An area whose landscape character exhibits a high degree of variety and harmony among the basic elements which results in a pleasant landscape to view.

**Scenic Quality:** The relative worth of a landscape from a visual perception point of view.

**Scenic Quality Evaluation Key Factors:** The seven factors (land form, vegetation, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modifications) used to evaluate the scenic quality of a landscape.

**Scenic Quality Ratings:** The relative scenic quality (A, B, or C) assigned a landscape by applying the scenic quality evaluation key factors; scenic quality A being the highest rating, B a moderate rating, and C the lowest rating.

**Scenic Values:** (refer to scenic quality and scenic quality ratings).

**Sedimentary Rocks:** Rocks, such as sandstone, limestone, and shale, that are formed from sediments or transported fragments deposited in water.

**Sensitivity Levels:** Measures (e.g., high, medium, and low) of public concern for the maintenance of scenic quality.

**Shaft:** See Mine Shaft.

**Simulation:** A realistic visual portrayal which demonstrates the perceivable changes in landscape features caused by a proposed management activity. This is done through the use of photography, artwork, computer graphics, and other such techniques.

**Split-estate:** Land whose surface rights and mineral rights are owned by different entities.

**Startle effect:** Any sudden noise that results in disturbance to wildlife.

**State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO):** The official within and authorized by each state at the request of the Secretary of the Interior to act as liaison for the National Historic Preservation Act. Also see National Historic Preservation Act.

**Stopover:** A location used by migratory birds to temporarily rest and/or forage during migration.

**Subsurface:** Of or pertaining to rock or mineral deposits which generally are found below the ground surface.

**Surface Occupancy:** See No Surface Occupancy.

## **T**

**Texture:** The visual manifestations of the interplay of light and shadow created by the variations in the surface of an object or landscape.

## **U**

**Uncommon Variety Minerals:** Stone, gravel, pumice, and cinder deposits that have distinct and special properties making them commercially valuable in a manufacturing, industrial, or processing operation. Such minerals are locatable under the Mining Law of 1872, as amended. In determining a deposit's commercial value, the following factors may be considered: quality and quantity of the deposit, geographic location, accessibility to transportation, and proximity to market or point of use.

**Use Volume:** The total volume of visitor use each segment of a travel route or use area receives.

## V

**Vandalism (Cultural Resource):** Malicious damage or the unauthorized collecting, excavating, or defacing of cultural resources. Section 6 of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act states that "no person may excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface any archaeological resource located on public lands or Indian lands...unless such activity is pursuant to a permit issued under section 4 of this Act."

**Variables:** Factors influencing visual perception including distance, angle of observation, time, size or scale, season of the year, light, and atmospheric conditions.

**Variety:** The state or quality of being varied and having the absence of monotony or sameness.

**Viewshed:** The landscape that can be directly seen under favorable atmospheric conditions, from a viewpoint or along a transportation corridor. Protection, rehabilitation, or enhancement is desirable and possible.

**Visual Contrast:** See Contrast.

**Visual Quality:** See Scenic Quality.

**Visual Resources:** The visible physical features on a landscape (e.g., land, water, vegetation, animals, structures, and other features).

**Visual Resource Management Classes:** Categories assigned to public lands based on scenic quality, sensitivity level, and distance zones. There are four classes. Each class has an objective which prescribes the amount of change allowed in the characteristic landscape.

**Visual Resource Management (VRM):** The inventory and planning actions taken to identify visual values and to establish objectives for managing those values; and the management actions taken to achieve the visual management objectives.

**Visual Values:** See Scenic Quality.

## W

## Z

**Zanja:** An aqueduct or irrigation system.

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